I know that these things might be known to the head of the department and I think he is trying to eliminate these. All the same I am bringing these to the notice of the head of the department and Government to show that such difficulties do exist and require speedier remedies to erradicate them completely.

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup : Sir, the law requires that every document should be written in Malayalam and that only Malayalam characters should be used. Formerly these documents were written only in Malayalam. I believe that the House will agree with me when I say that it is advantageous to have the documents only in Malayalam and not in any other character.

The honourable member referred to corruption prevailing among the Sub-Registrars and also to comparing fees. Thanks to the currency policy of the Government, half rupee coins are available in large quantities. I find now that half rupee coins are ordinarily given as registration fees. The sirkar one rupee is only a myth. About five or six months ago I had passed a notice, which has been printed and affixed in all offices, to the effect that parties need not pay anything more than what is necessary under the law. This year for example during the first ten months about three lakhs of documents have been registered and at the rate of two witnesses for a document about 6 lakhs of people would have appeared before the registry offices. It will be surprising to know that during this year there were only 18 complaints. I do not think there is any other department in which so few complaints have been received. Every one of those petitions has been enquired into by the Director and action taken.

Mention was made of the Sub-Registrars advancing the clock. These are complaints which are being made and I know why they are made this year particularly. Ordinarily a Sub-Registrar can accept about 30 or 35 documents. When a party comes late and the Sub-Registrar does not take his documents he makes all sorts of complaints.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know whether the honourable member knows that the Sub-Registrars can accept fresh documents up to 4 P. M. ?

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup : Yes, they can. They should receive all the documents presented before 4 p. m. In fact the aim of the Department is to help the public.

The question that a sum of Rs. 3,30,353 be granted under Demand V—Registration, was then put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VI—RAILWAYS.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar : Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 15,800 under Demand VI—Railways.

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Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : I support the demand. In doing so, I wish to get some information from the Financial Secretary which I have not been able to get even though I made a definite request when the demand for grant under Income tax was discussed. Sir, I wish to be enlightened on the following facts viz. whether Travancoreans have a claim to be represented in the service of the South Indian Railway Company ; whether the services of the Police officers working in the railway line from Trivandrum to Shencotta are lent by the Travancore Government; and whether they are remunerated by the South Indian Railway Company or by our Government.

President : Order, order. Is there anybody wishing to speak on this demand ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : I just want to say that arrangements should be made with the South Indian Railway authorities to see that no tips are exacted from our merchants who have to use the Railway for getting down rice and paddy from British India. Big wholesale merchants are put to difficulties because the usual conventional 'Maryada' is one rupee per waggon. In some cases, this has risen to Rs. 100. We cannot control the officers of the South Indian Railway operating outside the State. I am only requesting Government that they must take up the matter to the railway authorities to see that the tip system is abolished or at any rate brought to reasonable dimensions.

Mr. E. G. Salter (*Director of Transport*) : May I suggest to the honourable member that where a man wants preferential treatment at the hands of the people working under the Railway they resort to the practice of tipping.

President: In regard to Mr. Krishna Pillai's enquiry whether income-tax is being levied on the concern *viz.*, the Railway Company I may inform the honourable member that this is a matter which is under correspondence between the Railway Company and the Travancore Government. I cannot at present disclose at what stage the correspondence is, but I can inform honourable members of this House that employees of the Company are subject to the Travancore income-tax.

As regards Travancoreans' claim for representation in the services of the Railway Company, there is no rule one way or the other. It is open to the Travancoreans to be employed by the Company, just as they may be employed in any companies. There is no rule that the Company shall employ any particular number of Travancoreans. As regards the position of the Railway Police, they are members of the Travancore Police force. Therefore the

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question does not arise, whether the Government pay them or the company pays them. There are certain rules under the Travancore Railways Act and the Travancore Police is functioning in pursuance of the obligations under the Act.

The question before the House is that a sum of Rs. 15,800 be granted under Demand VI – Railways.

The motion was put and carried. The Grant was made.

DEMAND VII—P. W. DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE.

Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Chief Engineer—Roads, Irrigation and Miscellaneous*): I move for a grant of Rs. 48,91,811 under Demand VII—P. W. Department-including Water Works and Drainage.

Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai (*Quilon* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I rise to support the Demand. In supporting the demand I wish to point out for the information of this House that a daily paper published from Trivandrum has made some scathing and uncharitable criticism against the administration of Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar at a time when he is away from this country.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Is it relevant here?

Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai: It is relevant here because it says about the giving of contract for works which are controlled by the Public Works Department. It says that the Government instead of giving the contracts to Travancoreans, have engaged outsiders Therefore I think this is quite relevant in this discussion. I consider it a cowardly and mean act on the part of the Daily to fling such criticisms on an officer who has left the State.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Will the honourable member mention the name of the Daily?

Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai: The Malayali.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Is it to-day's issue?

Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai: Yesterday's.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Is it brave to hit at a paper when that paper cannot hit back?

Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai: I do not know. I am mentioning it here because there was a statement in it that the Government were not giving the contracts to Travancoreans.

President: What is the member's own opinion?

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: I rise to a point of order. Can a member raise discussions on the floor of the House about opinions expressed in papers?

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